

Senate District Q

Robert E. “Bob” Merchant, Nonpartisan



DATE OF BIRTH: June 30, 1946

PLACE OF BIRTH: Missoula, Montana

NAME OF SPOUSE: Jo Ann Merchant

CHILDREN: James, Rebecca, Bobby

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 36260 Wren Ave.
Kenai, Alaska 99611

MAILING ADDRESS: 36260 Wren Ave.
Kenai, Alaska 99611

E-MAIL ADDRESS: merchant@alaska.net

OCCUPATION: Retired

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 35 years
Anchorage 1957-1960
Kenai 1965, 1969, 1973-present

EDUCATION:
Lompoc High School, California 1961-1964, Diploma;
Allen Hancock Jr. College, California 1969-1970 A.A.
Degree; Fresno State University, California 1970-1972
B.A. Degree, magna cum laude; Kenai Peninsula
College 1990.

MILITARY SERVICE:
Alaska National Guard 1965, Private, Honorable
Discharge; U.S. Army 1966-1969, Sergeant; Non-
Commissioned Officers Academy, Distinguished
Graduate Good Conduct Medal, Honorable Discharge.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
Member, 1999-2002, Chairman 2003; Cook Inlet
Aquaculture Association, Director, 1999-2002.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Director, 1999-2000, President, 2000-2002; United Fisherman of Alaska, alternate Director, 2000-2002; Cook Inlet Salmon Brand Inc., founding Director, 2002-present.

STATEMENT:

My slogan, “Alaskans First,” is not just a punch line, I practice it. Individual state governments are structured to answer to the needs and provide for the quality of life their residents require. Alaskan residents expect and deserve first consideration and priority. Your quality of life is my priority.

Alaska’s future economy will depend more and more on our renewable resources as oil, gas, and minerals are depleted. It is imperative that we remain wise stewards of our renewable resources to allow commercial fishing, tourism, and selective timber harvest to continue and prosper.

I do not support the Percent of Market Value Plan. The permanent fund investment strategy should emphasize government/corporate bonds and dividend securities, which will provide a steady, predictable income. This is the safest and the conservative way to protect and grow the principal of the permanent fund. Income from the fund should be divided between resident dividends, general fund, and inflation proofing the principal. I will support this method.

Alaska’s expenditures must be equal to or less than its income. Deficit spending is wrong and certainly not conservative. I will reduce legislative expenditures through attrition, reorganization, and consolidation of state services. I will not vote to increase taxes so long as there are monies in the general fund and constitutional budget reserve.

With your trust and support I can help make Alaska the best managed state and the best place to live in the United States.

provided and paid for by the candidate